3-month summary

- Chance of a warm period is higher than normal
- Balanced likelihood of a wet or dry period

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

10% chance the season will be COOL	55% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	35% chance the season will be WARM
0.5× the normal chance ▼	0.9× the normal chance ▼	1.8× the normal chance ▲

Precipitation

20% chance the season will be DRY	60% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the season will be WET
1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	1.0× the normal chance ▲▼

Wind speed

20% chance the season will be CALM	70% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	10% chance the season will be WINDY
1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	1.2× the normal chance ▲	0.5× the normal chance ▼

1-month summary

- Similar likelihood of either a cool or warm April
- Risk of some colder spells and late season frosts
- Higher than normal chance of a dry month
- Only a small chance of a windy April

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

15% chance the month will be COOL	65% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	20% chance the month will be WARM
0.8× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance

Precipitation

30% chance the month will be DRY	60% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	10% chance the month will be WET
1.5× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance	0.5× the normal chance

Wind speed

30% chance the month will be CALM	65% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	5% chance the month will be WINDY
1.5× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	0.3× the normal chance

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COOL NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
COOL NEAR AVERAGE WARM WARM NEAR AVERAGE WARM COOL NEAR AVERAGE WARM NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY NEAR AVERAGE DRY DRY DRY DRY NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
NEAR AVERAGE COOL NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WARM COOL NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY DRY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WET
CALM NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE CALM CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM WINDY

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for April to June
Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. The influence of many of these drivers on UK weather patterns tends to be small at this time of year.
Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:
• The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
• Earlier than normal, final seasonal warming of the Stratospheric Polar Vortex
• An active Madden-Julian Oscillation increasing the likelihood of easterly winds in early April
• Following a La Niña event, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation is returning to neutral with a diminishing influence on global weather patterns

Long-range weather predictions
The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. During April, there is an increased chance of higher than normal pressure to the north of the UK with lower than normal pressure to the south. This suggests weather systems tracking south of the UK allowing high pressure to extend across the country at times. Signals for weather patterns become much weaker for May and June though with a slightly greater chance of westerly or southwesterly winds becoming more prevalent due to a return to a more usual track for weather systems.

Impacts
For the period as a whole, the risk of impacts from rainfall are similar to normal. Whilst there is a reduced chance of a wet April, impacts from rainfall remain possible. In fact, with a signal for low pressure systems to track further south than has been the case recently, this increases the chances of wetter spells across southern UK. There is an increased likelihood of northerly and easterly winds in April which increases the chance of some colder spells. While the likelihood of wintry hazards is small and mainly restricted to the north, the risk of impacts from late season frosts is more widespread. Later in the period, an increased chance of warm conditions implies a greater than normal chance of heatwaves in early summer.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

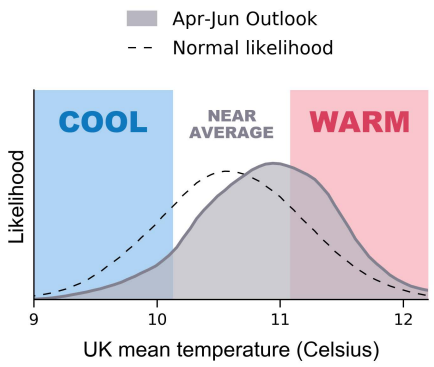
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

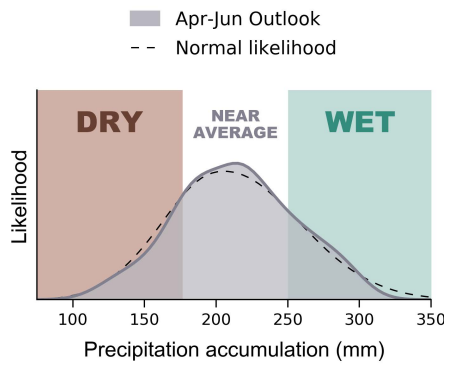
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



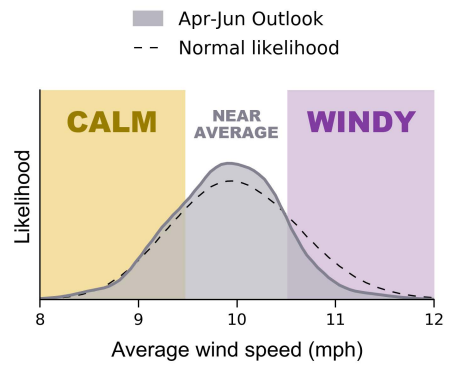
Likelihood leans towards warm

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



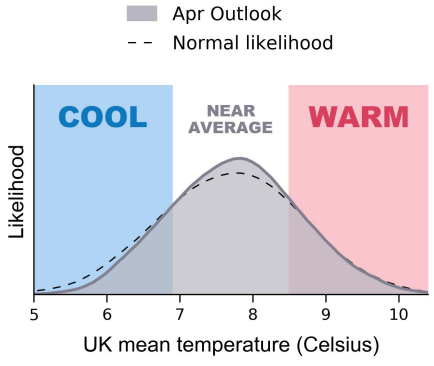
Balanced likelihood of dry and wet

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



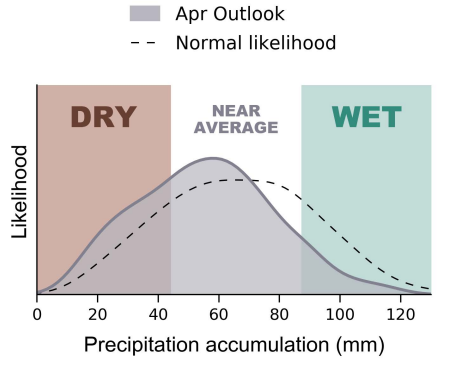
Likelihood leans away from windy

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



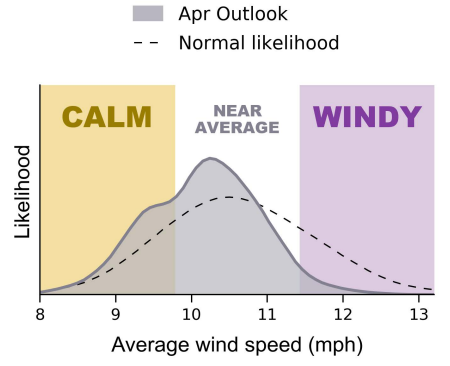
Likelihood of cool and warm fairly balanced

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Likelihood leans towards dry

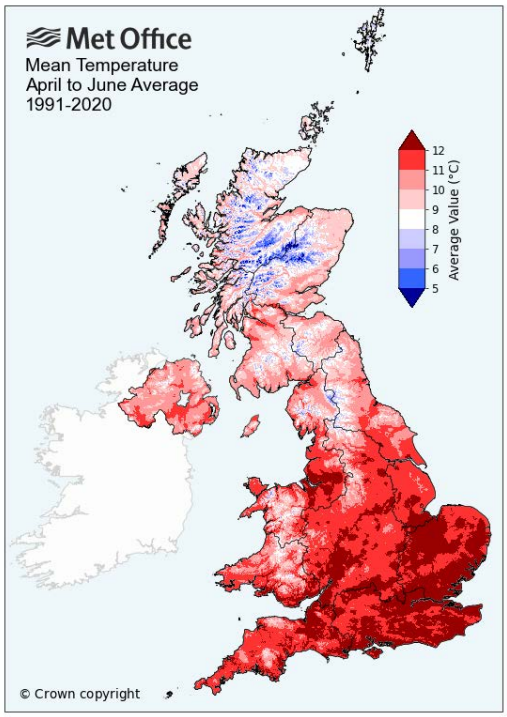
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Likelihood leans towards calm

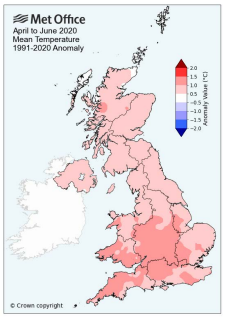
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

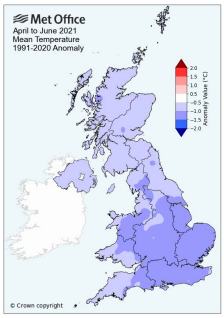


Average temperatures for April - June based on observations of past years.

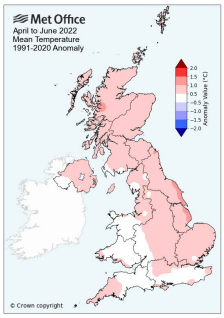
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



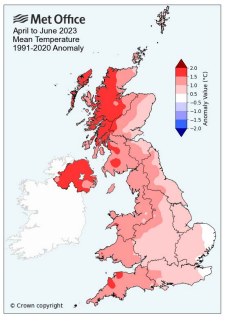
Apr - Jun 2020



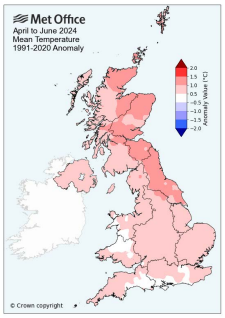
Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023



Apr - Jun 2024

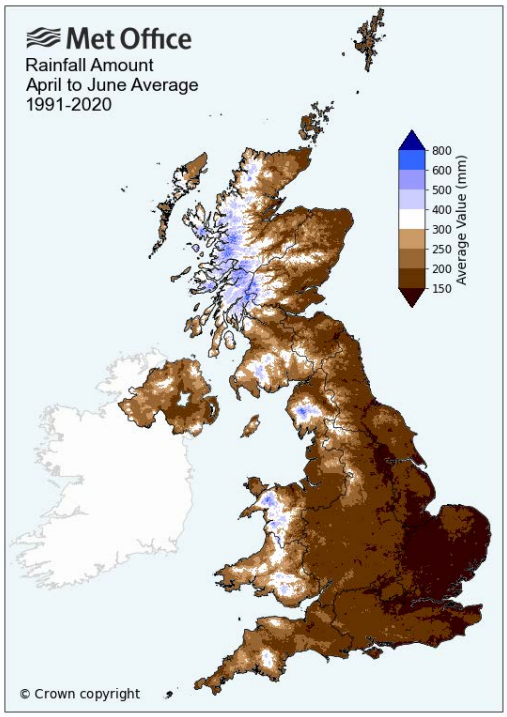
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how April - June temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

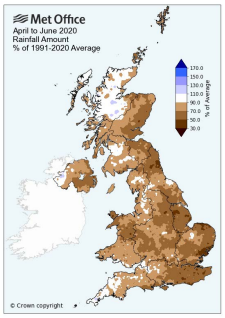
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

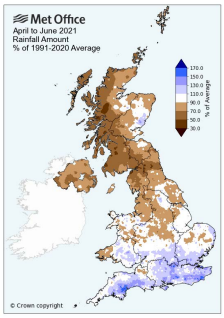


Average precipitation for April - June based on observations of past years.

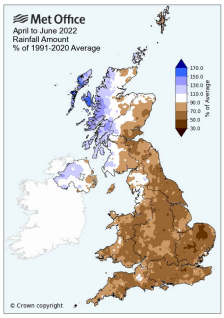
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



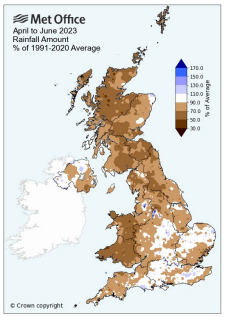
Apr - Jun 2020



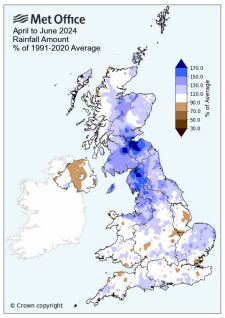
Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023



Apr - Jun 2024

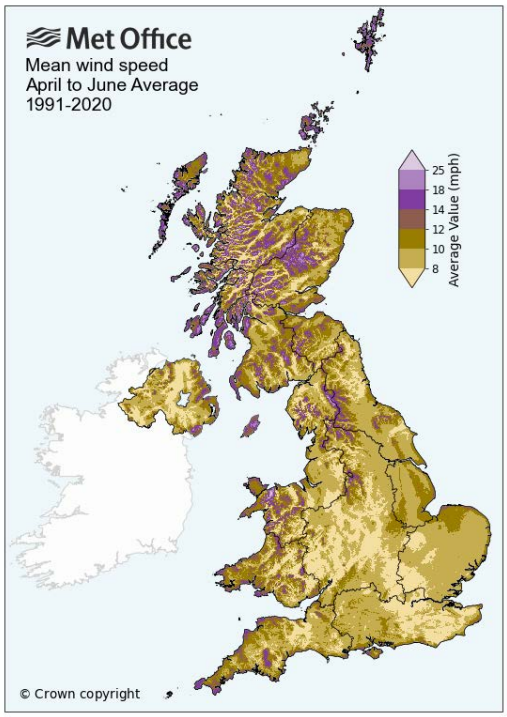
% of average

< 30	30 to 50	50 to 70	70 to 90	90 to 110	110 to 130	130 to 150	150 to 170	> 170

These maps show how April - June precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

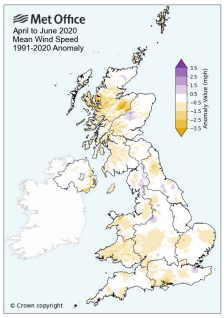
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

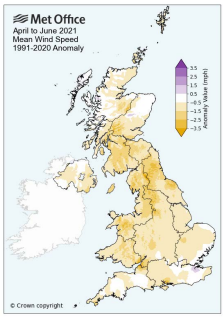


Average wind speed for April - June based on observations of past years.

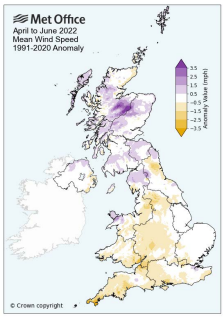
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



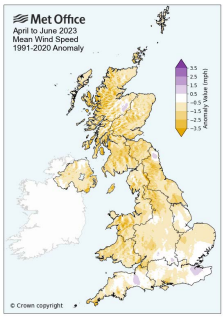
Apr - Jun 2020



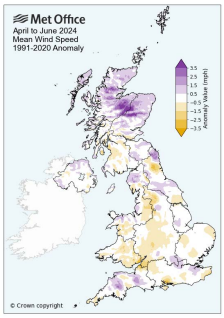
Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023



Apr - Jun 2024

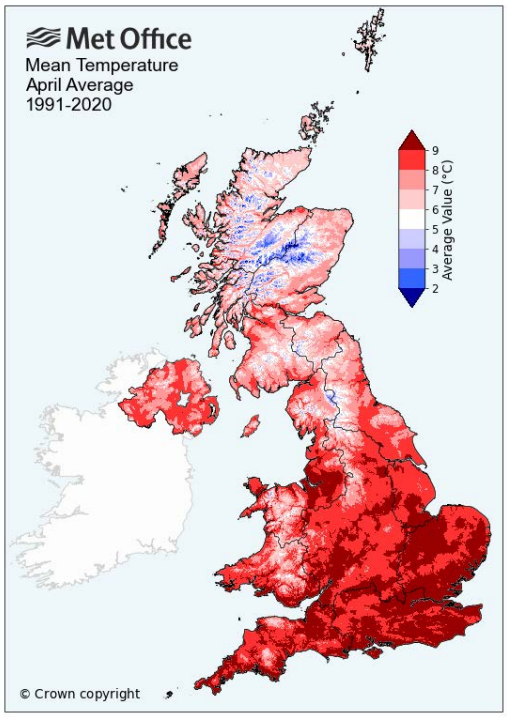
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how April - June wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

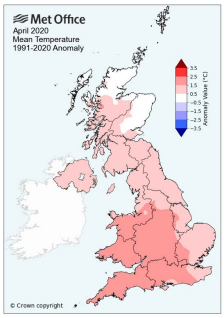
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

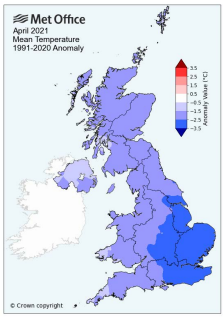


Average temperatures for April based on observations of past years.

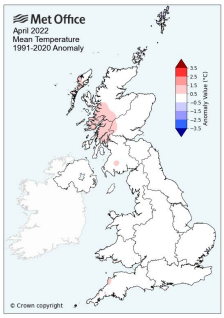
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



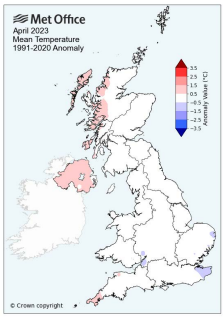
Apr 2020



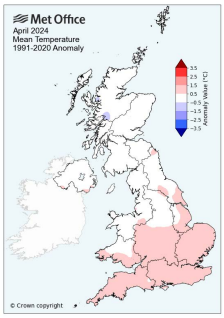
Apr 2021



Apr 2022



Apr 2023



Apr 2024

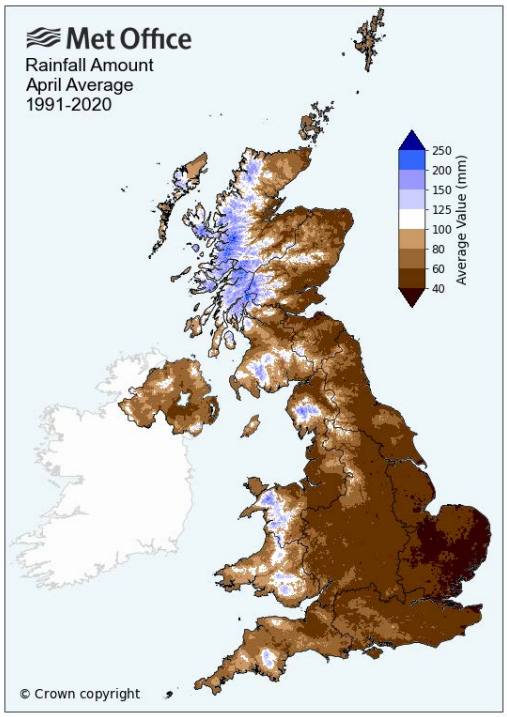
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how April temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

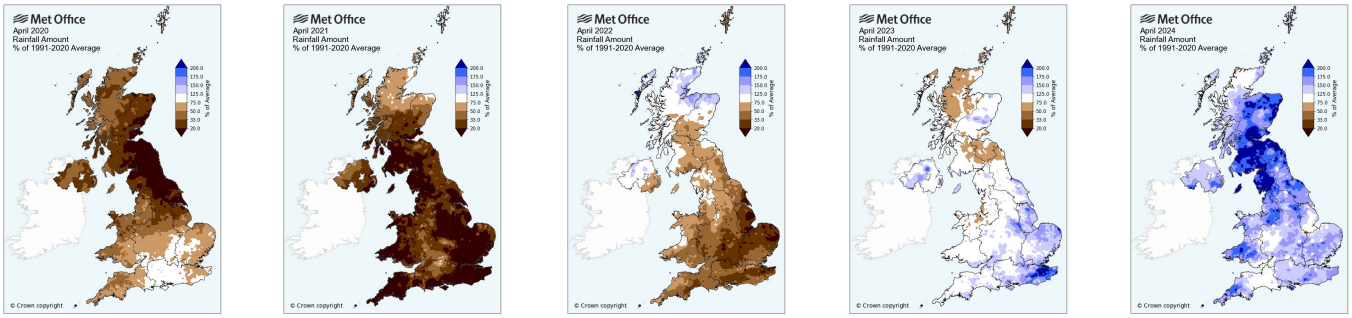
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.



Average precipitation for April based on observations of past years.

Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



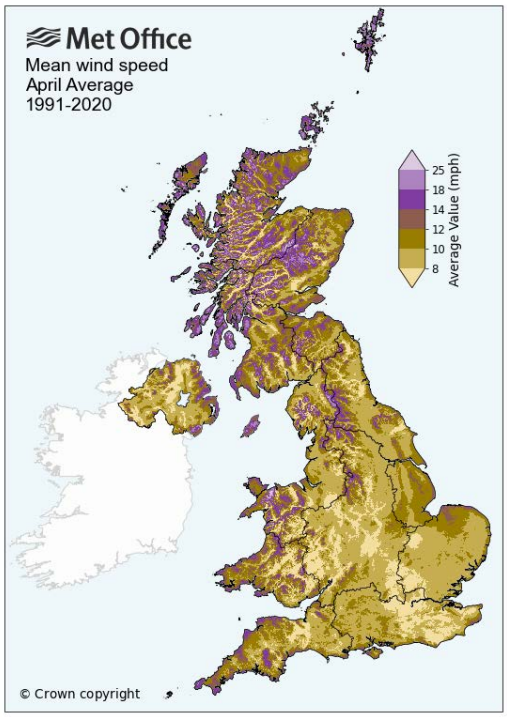
% of average

< 20	20 to 33	33 to 50	50 to 75	75 to 125	125 to 150	150 to 175	175 to 200	> 200

These maps show how April precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

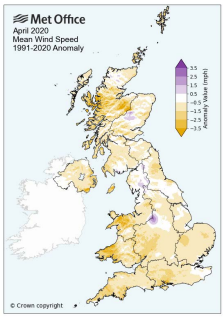
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

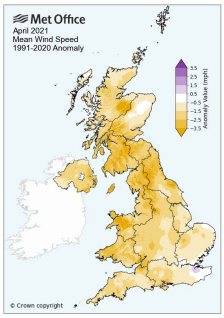


Average wind speed for April based on observations of past years.

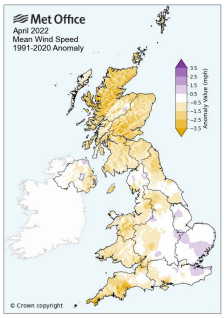
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



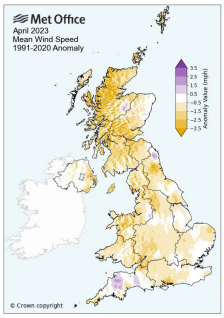
Apr 2020



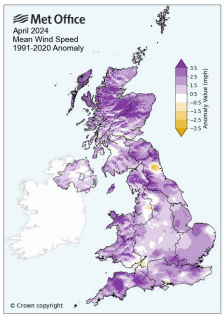
Apr 2021



Apr 2022



Apr 2023



Apr 2024

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how April wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. Does this Outlook mean we are unlikely to see impacts from heavy rain such as flooding during this period?
A. For the period as a whole, the risk of impacts from rainfall are similar to normal, however, there is a higher-than-normal chance of April being a drier month. There are indications low pressure systems may track further south than has been the case recently, increasing the chances of some wetter spells of weather across southern parts of the UK at times. The Outlook cannot specify the severity, location, or timings of specific weather events and therefore the details of any potential impacts. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages and check the risk of flooding in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does this Outlook mean we have seen the last of any cold weather?
A. Whilst this Outlook suggests a greater chance of a warmer Outlook period as a whole, there is an increased likelihood of northerly or easterly winds in April which increases the chance of some periods of colder weather. While the likelihood of genuinely wintry conditions is small and mainly restricted to the north, there could be more widespread late season frosts. Later in the period, there is an increased chance of warm conditions and some indications of a greater-than-normal chance of heatwaves in early summer. You can find out more by keeping up to date with the latest forecast on our website or by following us on social media.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

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www.metoffice.gov.uk

Email:
enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.